



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 18, 2007

S. 1099

A bill to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make individuals employed by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission eligible to obtain federal health insurance

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on June 13, 2007

S. 1099 would make citizens of the United States who are employed by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission eligible to obtain health insurance under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program. The park is administered by the commission that was created in 1964 under an international treaty between the United States and Canada. (The park is affiliated with the National Park Service.) The treaty specifies that the two countries equally share the administrative costs to operate the park. According to park officials, however, the U.S. government currently covers the full cost associated with the employer share of health premiums for employees who are U.S. citizens.

Currently, the federal government pays a portion of health insurance premiums for nine U.S. citizens under health plan options purchased in the private market. In recent years, health premiums have been escalating for employees who opt for coverage under such arrangements. S. 1099 would allow any employee of the commission who is a U.S. citizen to enroll in the FEHB program. CBO anticipates that roughly three-quarters of the 15 U.S. citizens currently employed by the commission would participate.

Based on information from park officials, CBO estimates that S. 1099 would reduce federal contributions toward health premiums for affected individuals by roughly \$200,000 over the 2008-2012 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. On balance, the federal discretionary costs for providing health insurance to those individuals would be lower under the bill than under current law. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1099 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Julia Christensen. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.